

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Every Student Proficient and Prepared for Success – Setting KBE Priorities to Reach Proficiency by 2014

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS Chapters 156 – 161

History/Background:

Existing Policy. On May 9 – 10, 2007, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) met in retreat, with one of their objectives being to discuss their strategic plan for the upcoming year. At that retreat, the board engaged in a dialogue with panelists representing practitioners from around the state to obtain their input about the issues that were of critical importance to their work. This discussion would assist the board in shaping the priorities that should take center stage for the upcoming year. Following the panel discussion, Deputy Commissioner Linda France reviewed with the Board their then-existing plan and priorities, and raised a variety of issues that provided a context for development of the next strategic plan. Because of time constraints and in order to allow the new commissioner of education to participate in the process, further discussion was postponed until the July 11 KBE meeting.

At the July 11 meeting, to begin the discussion around priority work, staff used the Board's goals and corresponding objective statements as a framework for the development of recommendations for priority work for the upcoming year. The recommendations were an attempt to lay out some broad areas that could be more fully developed to ensure implementation of the Board's concerns voiced at the May retreat around:

- assistance to low performing schools,
- assuring that every student is proficient and prepared for success, and
- assuring that every school reaches the target of proficiency by 2014.

Deputy Commissioner Linda France presented the recommendations document to the Board and then asked members to generate additional priority work for the upcoming year. The individual members' priorities were recorded. While plans had originally been made for the board members to assign priorities to the items generated, board members expressed a preference to have additional time to reflect on the information generated through this discussion. Thus, staff was asked to capture the priorities and send them to board members prior to the next board meeting. (This document was previously emailed to the Board under separate cover on July 20.)

In order to try to help the Board make its decision on priorities, attached for the Board's consideration is an additional document with proposals organized around the KBE goals. This document combines several of the ideas included in the presentation at the July 11 meeting with the ideas and thoughts that seemed to surface most frequently as Board member areas of concern during that discussion (Attachment A). A copy of the most current version of the Strategic Plan Progress Report (Attachment B), which includes the most recent data available on the objectives for which data measures have been identified, has also been provided for the board's information. Determination of the work priorities will help to focus the work of the KDE for the upcoming year, and will also assist as the discussion of budget priorities moves forward. Once priorities have been established, a detailed action plan for implementation

will be developed to include measurable objectives, activities, timelines, persons responsible, and any statutory or regulatory changes needed.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

The Kentucky Board of Education remains diligent in its focus on Kentucky schools and all students reaching proficiency. The Board's strategic plan will provide the direction and general framework for KDE's work for the upcoming year.

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Deputy Commissioner

Interim Commissioner of Education

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